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ABSTRACT

Noting recent media stories claiming that gender reform in schools has benefited girls at the expense of boys, this book offers an overview of the issues surrounding boys and education. The book argues that popular constructions of masculinity affect boys in all parts of their lives: in families, peer groups, and work cultures--at home, at school, at work, and at leisure. The book offers insights into key issues affecting boys at school including literacy, sport, bad behavior, sexuality, race and ethnicity, and popular culture. Also examined are programs and approaches to working with boys that have been successful in schools. The chapters of the book deal with current debates about boys and masculinity, boys and contemporary cultures, and boys specifically in the context of schooling. The chapters are: (1) "What about Boys?" on the nature of problems experienced by boys and a possible agenda for reform; (2) "Heroes and Villains: Theories of Masculinity and the Schooling of Boys"; (3) "Playing the Game," on the role of masculinity in play and leisure; (4) "Sons and Lovers," on masculinity and family and interpersonal relationships; (5) "Masculinity Goes to School"; (6) "Masculinity at the Margins," on being different from the majority in terms of physical ability, class, race and ethnicity, and sexuality; "(7) "Bad Boys," on masculine disruptive and antisocial behaviors; (8) "Boys and Books"; and (9) "Strategies for Change." Contains extensive notes and a 352 references (HTH)

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